

REMARKS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the Applicants respectfully request further consideration of this application, and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed June 26, 2007. In the Office Action, Claims 1, 18-22, and 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,437,985 to Blanc et al., and Claims 23-24 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blanc patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,585,165 to Kuroda, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,065 to Suga et al.

In response to the Office Action, Claim 1 has been amended, Claims 22 and 23 have been canceled, and Claims 24-26 and 34 have been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claims 18, 19, 21, and 27, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, have been amended to reflect the amended Claim 1. No new matter has been added. It is believed that the pending claims are now patentable over the references cited in the Office Action.

Independent Claim 1 is Patentable over the Blanc Patent

Claim 1, as amended herein, relates to an electronic label that includes a housing having a wall, an electronic display disposed along the wall, and an antenna layer extending along the wall in such a manner as to constitute a stack with the wall. The antenna layer includes at least a first antenna head and at least a second antenna head spaced from the first antenna head. An area, through which the electronic display is viewable, is at least partially defined in the antenna layer between the first and second antenna heads. For example, FIGS. 1-3 of the present application depict an embodiment of a layered electronic label according to Claim 1. The wall 2, along which the electronic display is disposed, underlies the antenna layer 100 as shown in FIG. 2. The antenna heads 101 and 103 (FIG. 3) are spaced such that the electronic display 3 (FIG. 1) is viewable through an area of the antenna layer, which area is at least partially defined between the antenna heads. By spacing the antenna heads, the electronic display is viewable therebetween and a compact electronic label is provided.

Claim 1, prior to amendments herein, was rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Blanc patent. The Blanc patent describes layered devices having antenna structures. Bar codes 17 (FIG. 6) are shown printed on an outer film 20 (FIG. 9), as described, for example, in line 65 of column 9 through line 15 of column 10. However, no electronic display is described in the Blanc patent, and no portion of any display is shown as viewable through any portion of an antenna layer. Therefore, the Blanc patent does not anticipate Claim 1 of the present application as amended herein. Claim 1 is therefore patentable over the Blanc patent alone.

All Pending Claims are Patentable over the Blanc, Kuroda, and Suga Patents

The Office Action cites the Kuroda and Suga patents against previous Claims 23-24, and 34-36, of which Claim 23 has been canceled. Claims 24 and 34-36 depend directly or indirectly from the amended Claim 1. While the Kuroda and Suga patents describe and illustrate antenna devices, they do not describe that any portion of any electronic display is shown as viewable through any portion of an antenna layer.

Thus, the Blanc, Kuroda, and Suga patents, and any combination thereof, do not anticipate, and do not render obvious the amended Claim 1, in which an area, through which an electronic display is viewable, is at least partially defined in an antenna layer between first and second antenna heads. For at least this reason, independent Claim 1 as amended herein, and Claims 18-21, 24-30, and 34-36, which all depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, are patentable over the cited patents and over all references of which the Applicants are aware. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Appl. No.: 10/517,699
Amdt. dated December 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 26, 2007

CONCLUSION

In light of the above it is considered that the application is in suitable form for allowance, and Applicants look forward to receiving a Notice of Allowability.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON December 21, 2007.
LEGAL02/30622508v1